

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2730

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

COMNAVFORCARIB

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1009

KINGSTON FOR HEAVNER

EO 11652: GDS

TAGGS: MARR BB

SUBJECT: MILITARY FACILITY NEGOTIATIONS

1. PERMSEC IN MINEXTAFF A.W. SYMMONDS HAS JUST INFORMED ME THAT, ALTHOUGH COMPOSITION OF BARBADIAN NEGOTIATING TEAM HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED FINALLY, HE EXPECTS IT TO CONSIST OF FIVE MEMBERS; HIMSELF (AS LEADER), SOLICITOR GENERAL OLIVER BROWNE, PERMSEC FOR SECURITY AND DEFENSE GILBERT MILLAR, ONE MILITARY ADVISER, AND ONE FINANCIAL ADVISOR. I SUSPECT THE MILITARY ADVISER WILL BE EITHER LT. COL. LEONARD BANFIELD, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE BARBADOS REGIMENT, OR MAJ. COURTENEY MCCONNEY, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE COAST GUARD, AND THAT THE FINANCIAL ADVISER WILL BE FINANCIAL SECRETARY STEVE EMTAGE, PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR FINANCE HARCOURT LEWIS OR PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR PLANNING GEORGE REID.

2. BIO INFO ON SYMMONDS AND TWO OTHER PRINCIPALS IS SUMMARIZED BELOW:
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SYMMONDS, ALGERNON WASHINGTON "ALGY"

SYMMONDS WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN FS-405 DATED JULY 6, 1976. HE IS 55 YEARS OLD AND AN ATTORNEY BY PROFESSION. AFTER A CIVIL SERVICE CAREER THAT BEGAN AT LEAST 20 YEARS AGO AND INCLUDED SEVERAL YEARS AS PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINIS-

TRY OF EDUCATION, SYMMONDS ASSUMED HIS CURRENT POSITION AS PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS IN JUNE 1976. PRIOR TO THE LATTER DATE, EMBASSY OFFICERS REGARDED HIM AS OUTGOING, FRIENDLY AND EASY TO GET ALONG WITH. HIS NEW POSITION SEEMS TO HAVE GONE TO HIS HEAD, WHOEVER, AND HE HAS LATELY BECOME INCREASINLY POMPOUS, BUREAUCRATIC AND HELPFUL. FROM THE US STANDPOINT, THERE ARE A FEW GOB OFFICIALS OF SYMMONDS' RANK WHO COULD HAVE BEEN A WORSE CHOICE AS HEAD OF THE TEAM.

MILLAR, CILBERT,

MILLAR TOOK OVER THE POSITION OF PERMANENT SECRETARY, DEFENSE AND SECURITY DIVISION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ON APRIL 1, 1977. HIS PREVIOUS WORK AND GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN ALMOST ENTIRELY IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION: SCHOOL HEADMASTER, DISTRICT IMNSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, PERMANENT SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CHIEF TRAINING OFFICERM ABOUT 50 YEARS OLD, MILLAR IS NOT WELL KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY. THE IMPRESSION HE CREATES HOWEVER, IS OF AN UNIMAGINATIVE AND CAUTIONS TIME SAVER.

BROWNE, OLIVER M.

BROWNE HAS BEEN THE SOLICITOR GENERAL OF BARBADOS SINCE 1966 AND HAS HAD GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR MATTERS RELATING TO LAW OF THE SEA SINCE 1971. SINCE HE WAS ADMITTED TO THE BAR IN 1953, HIS LEGAL CAREER HAS BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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ENTIRELY IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE. NOW 47 YEARS OLD, BROWNE HAS DONE GRADUATE RESEARCH IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE POLITICS OF DEVELOPING STATES. HE IS A SOFT-SPOKEN, SOMEWHAT RETIRING INDIVIDUAL. IN HIS LIMITED CONTACTS WITH THE EMBASSY, HE HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE GENERALLY WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE US.

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